
SENATE BILL 6689

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Senators Brown, McAuliffe, Kohl-Welles and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/19/2006. Referred to Committee on International Trade & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to economic development grants and assistance;
2 adding a new section to chapter 43.330 RCW; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that state-supported
5 economic development efforts, including work force training, technology
6 transfer, tourism development, and industrial modernization, can make
7 a significant difference in the health and diversification of the
8 state's economy. There are numerous federal and private economic
9 development grant programs and research projects designed to increase
10 the competitiveness of American firms and local work forces, for which
11 state agencies and local consortiums are eligible to apply. There are
12 also numerous opportunities to attract major regional, national, and
13 international business, tourism, and sporting events to the state.
14 State and local agencies in Washington have not maximized the
15 opportunities available to receive federal and private funds to augment
16 economic development efforts.

17 The legislature declares that it is the state's policy to maximize
18 the use of federal and private funds for economic development purposes
19 and to devote state resources to leverage federal and private dollars

1 to supplement state economic development efforts. In furtherance of
2 this policy, it is the purpose of section 2 of this act to authorize
3 and fund a technical assistance and grant writing program within the
4 department of community, trade, and economic development.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 The economic development grants program is created in the
8 department to be staffed by at least one grant writer either on
9 contract or on staff. Program staff shall:

10 (1) Regularly review the federal register for opportunities to
11 apply for grants, research projects, and demonstration projects;

12 (2) Stay abreast of grant opportunities with private foundations
13 and businesses;

14 (3) Assist local entities in attracting regional, national, and
15 international business, tourism, and sporting events;

16 (4) Correspond and meet with federal officials, including those in
17 the small business administration, the department of labor, the
18 department of commerce, and the department of health and human
19 services, as well as foundation and business officials, on the
20 prospects for obtaining federal and private funds for economic
21 development purposes in Washington state;

22 (5) Apprise the agency directors and division heads of the
23 department of community, trade, and economic development, the
24 employment security department, the department of agriculture, the
25 Washington technology center, the Washington manufacturing service, and
26 other state agencies as appropriate, of the opportunities for federal
27 and private grant dollars for economic development projects;

28 (6) Assist state agencies in their grant-seeking efforts for
29 economic development projects. Grant writing for and assistance in
30 grant writing for projects sponsored or cosponsored by state agencies
31 shall be the highest priority of the program's work;

32 (7) Write grant requests to further the state's economic
33 development efforts;

34 (8) Facilitate joint efforts between agencies and between local
35 consortiums and state agencies that will increase the likelihood of
36 success in grant seeking and the attraction of major events; and

1 (9) Garner the political support necessary from federal, state, and
2 local elected and appointed officials for success in grant seeking and
3 the attraction of major events.

4 The department shall submit to the appropriate committees of the
5 legislature an annual list of grant applications submitted, grant
6 awards received, and the total amount of grant funds received during
7 the year. The list shall be due by December 1st of each year.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
9 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
10 June 30, 2006, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
11 void.

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